

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/PAB:AEGRIFIN:MRC

APPROVED BY: NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

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P 182017Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 194061 ACTION DACCA NEW DELHI
COLOMBO ISLAMABAD KATHMANDU 15 AUG

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, BG

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON COUP IN BANGLADESH

1. THERE IS QUOTED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE
PRESS GUIDANCE THAT WAS PREPARED FOR THE NOON BRIEFING,
AUGUST 15.

2. QTE. Q. WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN BANGLADESH? IS THE COUP A
SUCCESS?

A. OUR INFORMATION IS THE SAME AS WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN IN THE
PRESS REPORTS COMING FROM BANGLADESH. THESE ARE BASED ON
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN DACCA.
THOSE SAY THAT A GROUP OF BANGLADESH MILITARY HAS TAKEN
POWER AND INSTALLED THE FORMER COMMERCE MINISTER KHONDAKER

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MUSHTAQ AHMED AS PRESIDENT. THEY IMPOSED A CURFEW AND
MARTIAL LAW. ALL AMERICANS AND THEIR PROPERTY ARE SAFE.
WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY OUR EMBASSY THAT THE SITUATION IN
DACCA AND OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY APPEARS TO BE CALM.

WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT MUJIB HAS BEEN KILLED?

A. WE HAVE ONLY THE INFORMATION REPORTED ON BANGLADESH

RADIO. BROADCASTS SAY THAT SHEIK MUJIBUR RAHMAN, AND, NATURALLY, HIS DEATH WOULD BE LAMENTED BY HIS MANY FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Q. WILL THE USG RECOGNIZE THE NEW REGIME? HAVE YOU HAD ANY CONTACT?

A. IT IS LESS THAN 24 HOURS SINCE THE COUP OCCURRED. WE ARE OF COURSE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION CLOSELY, BUT THE PICTURE IS NOT YET ENTIRELY CLEAR. AN OFFICIAL BROADCAST HAS APPEALED FOR RECOGNITION "BY ALL PEACE-LOVING NATIONS," BUT WE HAVE HAD NO DIRECT REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION. THUS THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION HAS NOT ARISEN IN ANY PROTOCOL SENSE, AND WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROACHED BY OFFICIALS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. WHEN APPROACHED, WE ARE PREPARED TO CONDUCT NORMAL BUSINESS.

Q. THEN, YOU ARE SAYING THAT YOU ARE PREPARED TO GRANT THEM RECOGNITION WHEN THEY FORMALLY ASK YOU FOR IT?

A. I AM SAYING THAT THE QUESTION HAS NOT ARISEN. WHEN THE NEW AUTHORITIES APPROACH US, WE ARE PREPARED TO TALK WITH THEM.

Q. DID THE U.S. HAVE ANY ADVANCE WARNING? WERE YOU INVOLVED?

A. WE HAD NO ADVANCE WARNING OF THE EVENTS OF LAST NIGHT. AS TO ANY INVOLVEMENT, I CAN STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT WE WERE NOT INVOLVED.

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Q. HAS THE USG CONTACTED THE INDIANS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS? PAKISTAN?

A. NOT YET, BUT IT WOULD BE NORMAL TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA IN THE COURSE OF OUR USUAL DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS.

Q. HOW MUCH IS THE USG GIVING BANGLADESH IN AID?

A. IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR (1975) THE OVERALL LEVEL OF ECONOMIC AID WAS DOLS. 309 MILLION. THAT BREAKS DOWN AS FOLLOWS: DOLS. 60 MILLION IN DEVELOPMENT LOANS; DOLS. 2

MILLION IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUCH AS FAMILY PLANNING ASSISTANCE AND VOLUNTARY AGENCY PROGRAMS; DOLS. 240 MILLION FOR 890,000 TONS OF PL 480 FOOD ON LONG TERM CONCESSIONAL SALES; DOLS. 4 MILLION OF PL 480 GRANT FOOD FOR UNICEF PROGRAMS IN BANGLADESH; AND DOLS. 3 MILLION IN CONTINGENCY

FUNDS FOR FLOOD RELIEF (EXCLUDING VALUE OF COMMODITIES FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT STOCKPILES).

Q. HAVE YOU COMMITTED PL 480 AID FOR THE REST OF THIS CALENDAR YEAR?

A. AS I SAY, THAT AID IS CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT THOSE DISCUSSIONS TO CONTINUE WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT? DO YOU EXPECT THE ECONOMIC AID PROGRAMS TO CONTINUE?

A. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM WILL BE AFFECTED. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE AN INTERRUPTION. BOTH THE PROGRAM AND DISCUSSIONS ARE ON-GOING. AFTER ALL, THIS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS A REFLECTION OF OUR HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH.

Q. HOW MANY AMERICANS ARE IN BANGLADESH? ARE THEY ALL SAFE?

A. SO FAR AS WE KNOW, YES. I CAN ONLY GIVE YOU THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS WE KNOW ABOUT -- 821. THERE MAY BE OTHERS WHO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ARE UNKNOWN TO THE EMBASSY. OF THAT 821 FIGURE, 46 ARE AMERICAN OFFICIALS; WITH THEIR DEPENDENTS, THE TOTAL OF USG OFFICIAL PERSONNEL COMES TO 102. THE REST ARE PRIVATE CITIZENS.

Q. WHO IS THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR?

A. DAVIS E. BOSTER.

Q. HOW MUCH U.S. PRIVATE INVESTMENT IS THERE IN BANGLADESH?

A. U.S. PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN BANGLADESH AT THE END OF 1974 WAS DOLS. 13 MILLION. END QTE. KISSINGER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, INSTRUCTIONS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE194061
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/PAB:AEGRIFIN:MRC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750285-0740
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197508100/baaaascx.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971010
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINS, BG
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006